

provide no money and no staff but a lot of obstruction." The bicentennial commission was tasked with commemorating a significant moment in both U.S. and Louisiana history. Under Henson Moore's leadership, that mission was achieved.

I would like to honor and congratulate Henson for his work on both the bicentennial commission and for his service to our country and the State of Louisiana.

TRIBUTE TO DR. GEORGE E. KELLER II

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. President, it is my honor today to recognize Dr. George E. Keller II for his outstanding achievements in the areas of engineering, innovation, and leadership. Dr. Keller was born and raised in Charleston, WV, and has a bachelor's degree from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and a master's degree and Ph.D. in chemical engineering from Pennsylvania State University. Dr. Keller's wisdom is evidenced in his personal life as he has been married to his wife, Judy Keller, for decades, allowing for his legacy to live on through his many children and grandchildren.

Dr. Keller served as a lecturer in President Eisenhower's "Atoms for Peace Program" in Chemical and Nuclear Engineering from 1958 to 1959. He went on to have an illustrious and highly accomplished 36-year career at the Union Carbide Corporation in research and development at the South Charleston Technical Center and achieved national and international accolades for pioneering contribution in separation science, reaction engineering, catalysis, and novel process technology development.

After retiring from the Union Carbide Corporation, Dr. Keller became the cofounder and vice president of New Carbon, LLC, with the purpose of commercializing various aspects of the WVU Chemical Engineering Department's coal to advanced carbon products programs. Dr. Keller also inspired leadership under the BIDCO organization for local economic development, which ultimately led to the birth of the Mid-Atlantic Technology Research & Innovation Center, MATRIC, Inc., in 2003. Dr. Keller served as MATRIC vice chairman until 2014, as well as MATRIC's chief engineer. He currently serves on the MATRIC board of directors and continues service as the company's chief engineer.

In 1988, Dr. Keller was elected to the National Academy of Engineering, NARE, for his invention and insightful analysis of novel separation processes. Recently, Dr. Keller was recognized as "one of the nation's top 100 chemical engineers of the modern era" by the premier industry association, the American Institute of Chemical Engineers, AIChE.

He is a recipient of many prestigious awards including the Chemical Pioneer Award by the American Institute of

Chemists for his breakthrough work in long-range hydrocarbon technology, as well as the Institute Lecture Award, the Clarence Gerhold Award, and the Institute Award for Excellence in Industrial Gases Technology, all awarded by the AIChE. The Chemical Engineering Magazine awarded Dr. Keller's team with the Kirkpatrick Honor Award for the most innovative chemical technology successfully commercialized in the world: development of highly efficient pressure-swing parametric pumping for gas-gas separations. Pennsylvania State University also awarded Dr. Keller with the Outstanding Engineering Alumnus Award in 1989.

Dr. George Keller has coauthored and edited more than 35 publications in refereed journals and is the coauthor of two major books in the area of industrial separations. He also holds 21 U.S. patents in key technologies. Dr. Keller has lectured at more than 30 universities around the world and has served as chairman for many prestigious international conferences. At West Virginia University, Dr. Keller serves as chair of the visiting committee of the College of Engineering and Mineral Resources, as well as a longtime member of the visiting committees of several chemical engineering departments at WVU, Virginia Tech, Penn State, University of Wisconsin, University of Texas, and University of Virginia. He has also served on the National Research Council's board on chemical science and technology, BCST, and as an adjunct professor of chemical engineering at WVU and Virginia Tech.

In addition to Dr. George Keller's many awards, honors, and service, he also has an abundance of major technical accomplishments. Dr. Keller was a pioneer in discovering ways for converting methane to hydrocarbon feedstock for the chemical industry and was awarded by the American Institute of Chemists for doing so.

When Dr. Keller joined Union Carbide in 1961, he was a trailblazer in implementing amongst the first computer-controlled pilot plants in the industry worldwide. Under his leadership, the separations and process fundamentals skill center developed such disparate processes as the most advanced technology for producing oxygen via miniature adsorption units in the homes of people with severe lung problems in the 1970s, creating a better and longer life for countless millions around the world, and the world's largest commercial pervaporation facility in the 1990s.

Dr. Keller's personal expertise in membranes, adsorption, distillation, and extraction operations has resulted in reducing the generation of process wastes, developing more cost-effective ways to treat industrial waste streams, and, in some cases, resulted in recovery of valuable coproducts from traditional waste streams. In addition to his Carbide contributions, Dr. Keller has also worked on several next-generation technologies for carbon capture from

fossil fuel combustion. His work in this area will be impactful for years to come, especially in industries touched by the development of shale gas in the United States.

Dr. Keller has recruited exceptional, diverse talent to WV and to Union Carbide, including over 100 of the world's premier doctoral-level engineers and scientists. He has served and continues to serve as an excellent mentor to countless individuals. In turn, this aspect of Dr. Keller's efforts paid exceptionally rich dividends to Union Carbide and West Virginia in developing and sustaining a world-class, market-driven, R&D technical center at South Charleston for many decades. This culture still lives on today at MATRIC. The company is a growing multidivisional company with long-term strategy leveraging both market opportunity and its own internal expertise. It is noteworthy that MATRIC has delivered more than \$95 million to the West Virginia economy that would never have existed without exceptional leaders like George Keller.

It is with great respect that I ask my colleagues in the U.S. Senate to recognize the accomplishments and dedication of Dr. George E. Keller II. Dr. Keller is an excellent example of perseverance and commitment to innovation, enhancing the lives of others and inspiring the next generation of scientists and engineers.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO DAVID HOLT

● Mr. KING. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize David Holt, who has been a town manager in Maine since 1976, serving four communities.

In 1999, David received the Linc Stackpole Manager of the Year Award, chosen by his peers in the Maine Town and City Managers Association in recognition of his exemplary leadership qualities, professional ethics, and commitment to public service. Over the past 40 years, David has been a mentor, trusted adviser, and role model to many younger managers.

David was raised in rural western Maine, the son of a farmer. This upbringing instilled a strong work ethic in him at a young age and an appreciation for preserving the natural environment, as well as empathy for the hard-working people of Maine. He has a strong intellect, a keen sense of humor, and is gifted writer, chronicling his life and times in his book of autobiographical short stories "Man about Town."

He got involved in local government early by being elected as the youngest member of the board of selectmen in his hometown of Greenwood at the age of 18. His interest in public service was kindled by this experience, and he later attended the University of Maine where he received a degree in public management.

David served as the first town manager of the town of Princeton. While

there, he developed an airport by receiving grants to move the historic train station to be reused as a terminal building. These efforts resulted in the establishment of regular air service with a local carrier, promoting economic development and easy access to the area by sportsmen. He enlisted the Maine National Guard to do their summer training session in Princeton, and with the work of hundreds of military personnel with heavy equipment, a new mile-long major access road to the airport from Route 1 was completed in just 2 weeks.

While serving in the town of Dexter, he prepared successful applications to the Community Development Block Grant Program that resulted in the renovation of the entire downtown area by adding new decorative streetlights, improved sidewalks, better drainage, and related road work. This effort revitalized the downtown area and spurred private investment in the Main Street buildings.

In the town of Standish, he worked extensively on the growth management plan, which established a roadmap for future community development.

In the town of Norway, where he has served for the past 28 years, David has worked diligently to ensure that the town stays in sound financial condition, as well as keeping the Main Street economically and culturally vibrant. He instituted a sidewalk building program that has resulted in Norway becoming one of Maine's most walkable communities. Perhaps his crowning achievements were the successful grant application and efforts to save the town's historic opera house. David will be long remembered in all the towns he has served for his commitment to community betterment and his forward-thinking positive management style.●

RECOGNIZING FIN FUN MERMAID TAILS

● Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, the American dream is alive and well today. Entrepreneurs across this country are innovators, leaders, and visionaries who exemplify many of the characteristics that make this country great. Idaho's small businesses and the entrepreneurs behind them share a dedication to producing the highest quality products and services. Hard work, dedication, and passion are among some of the other traits that successful entrepreneurs share, whether they be from Idaho or anywhere else in our great country. All of these qualities are on display in this month's Small Business of the Month. As chairman of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, it is my pleasure to recognize Fin Fun Mermaid Tails as the Senate Small Business of the Month for May 2017.

Fin Fun got its start in 2009 when its founder, Karen Browning, was asked by her granddaughter to design and make a mermaid tail. Even with over 50

years of experience sewing, she was not sure she could complete her granddaughter's request. With some creativity and ingenuity, Mrs. Browning designed the mermaid fins out of spandex swimsuit material and a rigid body for the fin. The design proved so popular that, when Emily and her sister, Sarah, swam with the fins on at the local pool, all their friends asked where they could get a tail of their own. Mrs. Browning began selling the product on eBay and Etsy in 2010. With demand increasing, Mrs. Browning's sons, Eric and Steve Browning, returned to Idaho to run the Fin Fun business. Sales of Fin Fun products increased dramatically since its opening, from selling 200 mermaid tails per month in 2011 to more than 500,000 in 2016.

Fin Fun offers a number of products including their famous mermaid tails, patented Monofin, swimwear, animal blankets, pool toys, and other accessories. In 2012, Eric and Steve Browning took over the day-to-day operations of the company as the founders Jerry and Karen went on a mission for their church. In 2015, Fin Fun purchased a 10,000-square-foot building located on the Lewisville Highway, where the company continues to grow. In that same year, Fin Fun was highlighted by various media outlets, including the Wall Street Journal. In 2016, the company was named to Inc. 500's fastest growing companies list, as the 119th fastest growing company with 3,000 percent growth over a 3-year period. Through the leadership of Eric and Steve Browning and the success of Fin Fun, the company has created more than 75 full-time and part-time jobs within the Idaho Falls area.

As a family-run business, Fin Fun continues to set an example by donating a percentage of its profits to more than 18 charitable organizations annually, in addition to providing employment and support to the local community. Fin Fun is the manifestation of the entrepreneurial spirit that epitomizes the essence of the great State of Idaho. I would like to extend my sincerest congratulations to the employees and owners of Fin Fun Mermaid for being selected as the May 2017 Small Business of the Month. You make our great State proud, and I look forward to watching your continued growth and success.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Ridgway, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

In executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

At 10:02 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bill:

S. 496. An act to repeal the rule issued by the Federal Highway Administration and the Federal Transit Administration entitled "Metropolitan Planning Organization Coordination and Planning Area Reform".

The enrolled bill was subsequently signed by the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

At 11:43 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 657. An act to amend title 5, United States Code, to extend certain protections against prohibited personnel practices, and for other purposes.

H.R. 910. An act to direct the Securities and Exchange Commission to provide a safe harbor related to certain investment fund research reports, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1242. An act to establish the 400 Years of African-American History Commission, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1312. An act to amend the Small Business Investment Incentive Act of 1980 to require an annual review by the Securities and Exchange Commission of the annual government-business forum on capital formation that is held pursuant to such Act.

H.R. 1366. An act to amend the Investment Company Act of 1940 to terminate an exemption for companies located in Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, and any other possession of the United States.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 657. An act to amend title 5, United States Code, to extend certain protections against prohibited personnel practices, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 910. An act to direct the Securities and Exchange Commission to provide a safe harbor related to certain investment fund research reports, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

H.R. 1312. An act to amend the Small Business Investment Incentive Act of 1980 to require an annual review by the Securities and Exchange Commission of the annual government-business forum on capital formation that is held pursuant to such Act; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

ENROLLED BILL PRESENTED

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on today, May 2, 2017, she had presented to the President of the United States the following enrolled bill: